

**Decision Record and Rationale for
Escure Recreation Improvements EA
(EA# OR135-07-EA-13)**

Decision

It is my decision to implement Alternative 1 (Proposed Action described and analyzed in Environmental Assessment (EA) OR135-FY07-013) to develop a livestock-free area for general use picnicking and overnight camping; increase parking capacity, and facilitate better access and turn-around; provide equestrian use parking/camping outside the fenced general use area; install a permanent, single vault, handicapped accessible outhouse; and make additional recreational improvements at the Rock Creek Recreation Area, in the vicinity of the Towell Falls trailhead. The improvements will begin with outhouse installation in October or November 2008, and be completed in stages over time, as funding becomes available, with oversight provided by archeology staff as they deem necessary for ground disturbance activities.

A Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been completed that indicates the action has been analyzed in an EA and found to have no significant impacts, thus an EIS is not required.

A 30-day public comment period yielded no comments unfavorable to the action. One comment received, that requested additional consideration of sharp-tailed grouse in the area, resulted in a minor update regarding that bird species within the Affected Environment / Wildlife section of the EA.

Rationale for the Decision

Implementing the proposed action will facilitate the objectives identified within the Purpose and Needs section of the EA, as follows:

1. Provide facilities to support current, and anticipated increased recreational use;
2. Create new recreation opportunities (e.g. developed picnicking and legal overnight camping with campfires allowed);
3. Improve overall recreation experience;
4. Reduce conflicts between livestock grazing and recreational experiences while providing for both uses;
5. Provide outreach and education to the public on the cultural and natural resources of the area;
6. Reduce recreational user negative impacts on infrastructure and range management.

The proposed action will accomplish the purpose and need described in the EA by:

- 1) Meeting requirements for installation of sanitary facilities as required by State and Federal law and regulation, including by the EPA and Washington Department of Ecology.
- 2) Implementing the RMP direction to “manage public lands and keep access routes open for a variety of recreational opportunities/experiences, including both motorized and nonmotorized recreation activities.”

- 3) Changing district policy that currently prohibits overnight camping and having campfires, gas, or charcoal fires, to allow these activities (campfires only within provided fire rings) at this location.

Administrative Appeal

Any person who is adversely affected by this decision and who feels it is incorrect may appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals in accordance with Federal Regulations (43 CFR Part 4). A person who wishes to appeal must file a written notice with the Border Field Office, within 30 days after the date this decision is made available on the internet at www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane. Notices of appeal must be mailed or delivered to:

Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management, Border Field Office
1103 N. Fancher Rd.
Spokane Valley, WA 99212

Within 30 days after filing a notice of appeal, the appellant must file a complete statement of reasons why they are appealing with:

US Department of the Interior
Office of Hearings and Appeals
Interior Board of Land Appeals
801 N. Quincy Street, MS 300-QC
Arlington, VA 22203

If a statement of reasons is included with the notice of appeal, then no additional statement is necessary.

This decision becomes effective upon expiration of the 30-day appeal period. If a person wishes to file a petition for stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that their appeal is being reviewed by the Interior Board of Land Appeals, the petition for a stay must accompany the notice of appeal and be based on the following standards:

- (1) the relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied
- (2) the likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits
- (3) the likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted
- (4) whether the public interest favors granting the stay

____/S/ June E. Hues_____
June E. Hues, Field Manager
Border Resource Area

__10/22/08__
Date